

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 10523

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON PFOR OAS UN MX

SUBJECT: DEALING WITH THE NEW MAJORITY: RECENT MEXICAN
AND LDC TACTICS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

PASS USMISSION OAS

REFS: A) MEXICO 10062

B) MEXICO 10283

C) MEXICO 10261

D) MEXICO 10171

E) MEXICO 10186

1. SUMMARY: AS REPORTED IN REFTELS A THROUGH E, CERTAIN
DISTRESSING PATTERNS HAVE EMERGED AT AND APPEAR TO BE
PERMANENT FEATURES OF CONFERENCES HELD IN MEXICO RECENTLY,
INCLUDING THAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-
MENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO), THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION (ILO), AND THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION OR LATIN
AMERICA (ECLA). IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND OTHERS
OF A SIMILAR NATURE AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, NOTABLY THE
SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA (STATE 104050), EMBASSY
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BELIEVES DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR US

PARTICIPATION AT SOME INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES SUCH AS THOSE CITED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING INTERRELATED AND DISTURBING TRENDS EMERGED IN VARYING DEGREES AT THE UNIDO, THE ECLA SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT (ECLA S & T), AND THE ILO CONFERENCES HELD RECENTLY IN MEXICO CITY:

(A) EXCLUSION: THE LATIN PARTICIPANTS, WITH THE MEXICAN AND CUBAN DELEGATES IN THE LEAD, EXCLUDED THE US DELEGATES FROM PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS, THEREBY SHARPLY CURTAILING THE US ROLE IN SHAPING THE RESULTS OF THESE CONFERENCES AND RAISING IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AS TO THE VALUE OF US PARTICIPATION IN THEM. A NOTABLE EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS THE EXCLUSION OF NOT ONLY THE US BUT ALSO THE FRENCH, DUTCH AND UK DELEGATES FROM BOTH THE WORKING GROUPS AND OFFICIAL POSTS IN THE ECLA S & T CONFERENCE (SEE MEXICO 10062).

(B) DISREGARD FOR CUSTOMARY PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE: LA CHAIRMEN, IN MANY CASES MEXICANS, HAVE EXECUTED THE FUNCTIONS OF THEIR OFFICES IN A HIGHLY BIASED AND SELF-SERVING MANNER. THEY HAVE FREQUENTLY PROCLAIMED THAT A CONSENSUS EXISTED AND HAVE ANNOUNCED THE UNANIMOUS ADOPTION, WITHOUT A VOTE, OF PROPOSALS WHICH THEY FAVORED, DISMISSING OR IGNORING BOTH PREVIOUSLY-ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION AND OBJECTIONS. A CASE IN POINT WAS THE RULING WITHOUT A VOTE BY THE ILO CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, MEXICAN SEC. OF LABOR MUNOZ LEDO, THAT THE CONFERENCE INFORM THE UN OF ITS UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF THE ECHEVERRIA CHARTER (CERDS) DESPITE THE OBJECTIONS OF THE US AND ARGENTINE DELEGATES (SEE PARA 7 MEXICO 10171). ADDITIONALLY, LA CHAIRMEN HAVE OCCASIONALLY SIMPLY IGNORED REQUESTS FOR THE FLOOR FROM OPPOSING DELEGATES (SEE PARA 2 MEXICO 10186).

(C) POLITICIZATION: THE LATINS, GENERALLY WITH MEXICAN LEADERSHIP AND WARM CUBAN SUPPORT, INTRODUCED AND PASSED POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS NOT GERMANE TO THE SUBJECTS OF THESE CONFERENCES. FOR EXAMPLE, AS A RESULT OF MEXICAN MANIPULATIONS THE WORKER DELEGATES OF THE ILO

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CONFERENCE ENDORSED THE GOM'S DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH CHILE. ADDITIONALLY, THE CHAIRMAN IN THIS CONFERENCE PERMITTED SOVIET OBSERVERS TO GIVE A SPEECH ATTACKING THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT OF CHILE WITHOUT ALLOWING THE CHILEANS TO RESPOND (SEE MEXICO 10186). IN THE ECLA S & T CONFERENCE, THE CUBA DELEGATE, WHO WAS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT, WAS PERMITTED TO MAKE A HIGHLY POLITICAL SPEECH WHICH INCLUDED OPEN ATTACKS ON THE US.

(C) PRESS MISREPRESENTATION OF CONFERENCE VOTES AND DECISIONS: THE MEXICAN PRESS CONSISTENTLY MISREPRESENTED BOTH THE VOTES AND DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCES HELD HERE IN A MANNER WHICH PATENTLY SERVED THE INTERESTS OF THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION. NOTABLE EXAMPLES OF THIS WERE THE REPORTS AND AN EDITORIAL IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL NACIONAL WHICH PROCLAIMED THAT THE ILO CONFERENCE HAD UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE THE GOM DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE WHEREAS IN FACT ONLY ONE OF THE THREE COMPONENT PARTS OF THAT CONFERENCE, THE WORKERS-DELEGATE GROUP, HAD VOTED TO ENDORSE THIS GOM DECISION AND THERE WERE SEVERAL OBJECTIONS AND ABSTENTIONS TO THIS MOVE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCE OF SUCH PRACTICES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR PREPARING FOR AND PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCES WITH THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND:

(A) US DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCES: THE USG MAY WANT TO FOREGO PARTICIPATING IN SOME CONFERENCES BECAUSE THEY ARE SIMPLY NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT PARTICIPATION OR BECAUSE THEY ARE HEAVILY STACKED AGAINST THE US. IN THE LATTER CASE THE USG SHOULD WEIGH THE US INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION AGAINST NON-PARTICIPATION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS SUBSTITUTING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND PROGRAMS. DURING A PERIOD OF DEADLOCK AT THE RECENT ECLA S & T MEETING, SEVERAL OF THE SMALLER LATIN NATIONS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN BILATERAL S & T PROGRAMS WITH THE US. PERHAPS THE USG SHOULD GIVE MORE CONSIDERATION TO INCREASED UTILIZATION OF BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN CAREFULLY SELECTED AREAS. WHILE A LARGE-CONFIDENTIAL

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SCALE ABANDONMENT OF MULTI-LATERAL PROGRAMS IS PROBABLY NEITHER FEASIBLE NOR DESIRABLE, A PARTIAL SHIFT BACK TO BILATERAL PROGRAMS MIGHT BE IN THE US INTEREST.

(B) SITE SELECTION: IT MIGHT BE PROFITABLE FOR THE USG TO DEVOTE EARLY EFFORTS TO INFLUENCING THE SELECTION OF CONFERENCE SITES IN ORDER TO PLACE AS MANY OF THE IMPORTANT MEETINGS AS POSSIBLE IN ENVIRONMENTS WHICH ARE REASONABLY NEUTRAL WITH RESPECT TO US INTERESTS.

(C) CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS: GREATER ATTENTION SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO DEFINING USG OBJECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. CONVERSELY, AN EFFORT SHOULD ALSO BE MADE TO IDENTIFY PITFALLS AND TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR CIRCUMVENTING THESE.

(D) DELEGATION SELECTION: GREAT CARE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INSURING THAT US DELEGATIONS ARE FULLY STAFFED, WELL BALANCED, AND PREPARED TO DO BATTLE. DELEGATIONS SHOULD HAVE BOTH THE REQUISITE EXPERTISE AND LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES AS WELL AS A GOOD GROUNDING IN THE PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AND US FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. TO ACHIEVE THIS, DELEGATIONS

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ACTION IO-03

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SHOULD INCLUDE BOTH DIPLOMATS SKILLED IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO PERMIT FULL COVERAGE OF ALL VITAL CONFERENCE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING WORKING GROUPS. IN THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT IT IS A PARTICULARLY USEFUL PRACTICE TO INCLUDE SOME MEMBER OF OUR MISSION TO THE OAS ON DELEGATIONS IN ORDER TO GIVE BOTH CONTINUITY AND DEXTERITY TO OUR EFFORTS. WHILE AN APPROPRIATE MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF IN THE HOST COUNTRY MAY ALSO BE APPOINTED TO THE DELEGATION TO ACT AS ADVISOR AND LIAISON OFFICER, THE US DELEGATION ITSELF SHOULD BE ENTIRELY SELF-RELIANT ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AND CONFERENCE COVERAGE. ABOVE ALL, DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE WELL ORGANIZED, COORDINATED, AND LED IN ORDER EFFECTIVELY TO PROTECT US INTERSHS AND PUSH

US OBJECTIVES IN THE OFTEN BEWILDERING THICKET OF PLENARY SESSIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND CORRIDOR LOBBYING.

(E) BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING OF DELEGATES: ALL MEMBERS OF A US DELEGATION SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE FULLY BRIEFED IN WASHINGTON AS TO EXACTLY WHAT THE US WANTS TO ACHIEVE AT THE CONFERENCE THEY WILL ATTEND. A GREATER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MAKE THESE BRIEFINGS AS SYSTEM-CONFIDENTIAL

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ATIC AND COMPREHENSIVE AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION, DELEGATES SHOULD BE DEBRIEFED AFTER CONFERENCES IN ORDER TO ADD TO OUR FUND OF KNOWLEDGE ON CONFERENCE TACTICS AND FOREIGN DELEGATE BIOGRAPHIES.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A TIMELY REVIEW OF CONFERENCE PREPARATION MAY HELP LIMIT POSSIBLE ADVERSE RESULTS AT FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, SUCH AS THE 6TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OAS COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN MEXICO JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 1.

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